



ARIZONA CENTENNIAL

Centenarian Brunch

Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Sheraton Downtown Phoenix, Valley of the Sun Room

Happy Birthday, Arizona -- and to all our honored guests!

As Governor of this magnificent state it's my distinct honor and great joy to welcome the centenarians -- individuals -- companies -- and nonprofit organizations -- who are special guests on this great occasion.

Today, as we celebrate Arizona's 100th Statehood Day we're honoring remarkable individuals who have lived a century or more.

They've seen things many of us have only read or heard about. They're men and women who -- quite literally -- have brought history with them.

- ➔ **There's Arthur Fortier – who will be 100 next month. He worked for the railroad for 42 years and spoke with President Roosevelt on several occasions.**
- ➔ **There's Edith Godfrey -- who will be 104 in March. She served as a volunteer for John C. Lincoln Hospital for 40 years.**
- ➔ **There's Isabel McAtee -- who just turned 105 last week! Isabel served as director of nursing for the American Red Cross in Arizona for many years. She is a big fan of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and would like to meet her.**
- ➔ **And, then there's Arthur J. Hubbard, Sr. Mr. Hubbard served in WWII as a member of the elite group known as the Navajo Code Talkers! He alone trained more than 200 men, and Code Talkers helped us win the war against Japan.**

Not with us today -- but certainly worthy of mention is Lavona Evans. Lavona is 100 years old today – born in Thatcher, Arizona on Admission Day. Her father named her as a combination of Valentine and Arizona. She's not with us because she is serving as the grand marshal of a parade in Safford.

Our state is also blessed with companies that have endured and flourished for a century – allowing our citizens to earn a living and provide for their families.

They're companies such as:

- MSC Distributing – the first Motor Supply Company that opened in 1906 right here in Phoenix.**
- Carlink Ranch – which for more than 127 years has continued Arizona's rich tradition by raising cattle and crops in Benson.**
- Asarco LLC – and Phelps Dodge – now Freeport McMoran Copper and Gold. Through periods of boom and bust, these mining giants have employed thousands of Arizonans. They've continued to make Arizona the leading copper producing state.**

Arizona nonprofit organizations have lifted spirits by giving to the least and the lost -- defining the purest sense of spirit and community – while others have dazzled us with majesty and entertainment.

Nonprofits such as:

- The YWCA Maricopa County – for a century this charitable group has brought hope and dignity to suffering fellow Arizonans.**

→ Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff – founded in 1894 – high on a hill in the Ponderosa Pine forest, this is a place of universal discovery that has awed visitors the world over for more than a century.

→ American Lung Association in Arizona – For 100 years this organization has been working to bring a breath of fresh air and an improved quality of life to Arizonans suffering from lung disease.

These are just a handful of the treasured individuals, companies and nonprofit organizations with us today.

We're lucky to be with them – to shake their hands and offer our heartfelt thanks for making Arizona such a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family.

Congratulations for a century of living and a job well done!

Arizona thanks you on this -- our most celebrated day.

As you can imagine, there are many celebrations and announcements going on today – so I'm going to have to say goodbye to attend a press conference across the hall.

But, I do want to share a special secret with you. As we celebrate history today -- we're also embracing a very bright Arizona future!

I'm going to announce to the media a new virtual website. It's not just an ordinary website, but one that showcases our state in a new and exciting way – one never seen before.

I believe it will be the ultimate Centennial Celebration. It looks at the foundation that you and the 5c's have provided for us and it shows us the path to the future.

Internet users the world over – those who dream of coming to Arizona – anyone -- will be able to visit online a spectacular museum filled with high-tech wonder and magic.

Thank you for allowing me to spend some time with you today.

May God bless you and your families -- the great 100-year-old state of Arizona -- and may God always bless and protect the United States of America. Thank you.